

THE RE-DISCOVERY OF ELEOCHARIS DIANDRA.

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NEARLY twenty years ago Charles Wright collected on high sand-bars of the Connecticut river, between Hartford and Wethersfield, a little spike-rush, which was unlike any other known species. Its most marked characteristic was the lack of bristles which, in this genus, usually occur at the base of the achene, probably representing the perianth of higher endogens. The plant was further distinguished by its very small inverted-pyriform achene, capped by a small compressed tubercle. After corresponding with Dr. Gray in regard to his plant, Mr. Wright in 1883 described it as *Eleocharis diandra*. Since then nothing has been known of the species except from the original specimens. Recently, however, Mr. C. H. Bissell, taking advantage of the extremely low water of the Connecticut in the fall of 1899, has explored the sand-flats along the river at East Windsor, Connecticut. There he finds the plant described by Wright, but most of the material differs markedly in habit from Wright's specimens. The original *Eleocharis diandra* was an erect plant with many slender culms. Though Mr. Bissell finds this erect plant, the common form at East Windsor has the culms decidedly prostrate and of very unequal lengths, a variation from the type parallel with *E. ovata*, var. *Heuseri* (see Contrib. Gray Herb. xv, Proc. Am. Acad. xxxiv, 486-489, 494). Assured by Mr. Bissell's re-discovery of this unique *Eleocharis*, President Ezra Brainerd felt that it should be expected along the entire Connecticut Valley. Accordingly as occasion has offered, he has looked in the proper situations for it at points in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts and finds at them all the same prostrate form which abounds on the sand at East Windsor.

This form, differing so strikingly in habit from the original erect plant of Charles Wright, may be called —

ELEOCHARIS DIANDRA, C. Wright, var. **depressa**. Culms of very various lengths, depressed and prostrate, forming flat rosettes. Sand-bars and flats of the Connecticut river, NEW HAMPSHIRE, Walpole, Sept. 30, 1899 (*Ezra Brainerd*): VERMONT, Westminster, Sept. 30, 1899 (*Ezra Brainerd*): MASSACHUSETTS, Northampton, Oct. 11, 1899 (*Ezra Brainerd*): CONNECTICUT, East Windsor, Sept. 17, 1899 (*C. H. Bissell*). A discussion and figures of Mr. Wright's species will be found in the paper by the present writer cited above (Contrib. Gray Herb. xv, 489, 496, figs. 53-58).

GRAY HERBARIUM.